

## GODIN (Gaudin) Family

### The Third Generation Born in New France

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#### Athanase Godin

- Born Feb 22, 1723 (Neuville / Pt-aux-Trembles)
  - Parents (Jean-)François Gaudin and Catherine LaRue
- Married on 6 Oct 1749 in Cap Sante to **(Marie-) Thérèse Piché(t) (-Lamusette)**
  - Born June 25, 1729 in Cap-Sante, Portneuf
  - Daughter of **Pierre Piché** and **Scholastique Lesage**
- Died 1803

1<sup>st</sup> born died at birth, "anonyme" (not named) 7 march 1754 at Ecureuils.

The information above is confirmed by Tanguay, but this is the end of the Tanguay record for this line and the end of easily obtained reference information. No recorded other births in Tanguay but this information is available from other genealogical sources:

#### Children of Athanase and Marie-Therese Pichet:

1. **Anonyme**: b&d March 7, 1754 Les Ecureuils
2. **Joachim**: b May 19, 1755 d May 21 1755 Cap Santé
3. **Basile Godin** b 27 Oct 1757 Cap Sante, m Feb 7 1786 Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade to Marie-Louise LeBoeuf, d 30 Jan/2 Feb 1839
4. **(Jean)-François** b 13 June 1762 Cap Sante, m Françoise Fontaine Jun 1 1801 Bécancour, Nicolet
5. **Marguerite** b 1772?, m Louis Tousignant Jan 30 1792 Bécancour, Nicolet
6. **Thérèse** b 1770? m Charles Babineau (dit Delorier ou DesLauriers) Mar 31 1788, Bécancour, Nicolet

#### Challenging Times

The Godin record becomes sparse at the time of Athanase. There were no detailed censuses done over the period of his life. It was a time of great disruption for New France as they were in the midst of a war that the French colony would lose in 1760. Other records such as marriages, deaths and civil registrations from the middle to the end of the 1700's are somewhat scarce and may have been lost or destroyed by war action.

After the surrender of New France the English conducted a census in 1765 but it was a general population survey conducted by area and individual names were not recorded. Historically the English were not as thorough with keeping records of individuals as the previous French government and church had been. According to that census in 1765 in Cap Santé, the region in which Jean-François' family was residing, there were 153 families and a total of 811 people.

The next general census was conducted in 1784 and again, no names were recorded. The first detailed census after the English conquest was done in 1825 but by then Athanase and his son Basile, our ancestor, had lived out their lives.

According to the PRDH (Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique run by the University of Montreal) there is a list of the Godin name in the parish register of Bécancour. The names are Athanase, Jean-Francois, Marie-Catherine Larue, Marie-Marguerite Godin and

Therese Godin. Their names are in association with the dates 1788 (marriage of Therese), 1792 (marriage of Marguerite) and 1803 (death of Athanase) but there are no further details. This is something that will need further investigation as it is our ancestor's family. There has only been one Athanase Godin in this period of all the records that I ever searched, and he married a Larue so there is no doubt that it references our ancestor. Bécancour is located across the river from Trois-Rivières. His three youngest children were married in Bécancour so perhaps we can speculate that in his retirement he and Marie-Catherine went to live with one of them, likely the son Jean-François. In New France, the parents would save as much money as they could to help the eldest sons get established on new land. Sometimes they subdivided the family land for the sons but by ordinance it was not permitted to have a plot smaller than 1 ½ arpents, and each plot had to be occupied and have a house. Usually it was the youngest sons that would inherit the family land and in exchange they were to take care of aged parents.

Tanguay indicates Athanase is the son of Jean-François but another dictionary,

Histoire et Généalogie des Acadiens by Bona Arsenault, indicates Athanase was the son of Jacques Phillip Godin dit Bellefeuille. According to him, Athanase was born in 1724 and married Therese Piché, and died on 12 December 1803 in Bécancour. Jacques Phillip Godin was from the Rivière St Jean area and was an Acadian, descendent of Pierre Godin dit Chatillon, the other Godin to arrive in New France (Montreal) in 1652. Few records of the Acadians were kept and few survived the many disruptions by the English. Arsenault was known to have made many assumptions that were later proven incorrect. This is one of those mistakes. He is correct about the marriage and death of Athanase but is incorrect as to Athanase's parents based on the Tanguay text and the actual baptism record that indicates the parents of Athanase. There are even more errors and inconsistencies in the on-line records for Athanase. Some sites have him listed as a female, indicate incorrect children or as being childless, all of which are wrong. The information, including children as indicated on the previous page is the data with which I have the most confidence and verified with original records where possible.

### 1749, (6 oct.) Cap-Santé.

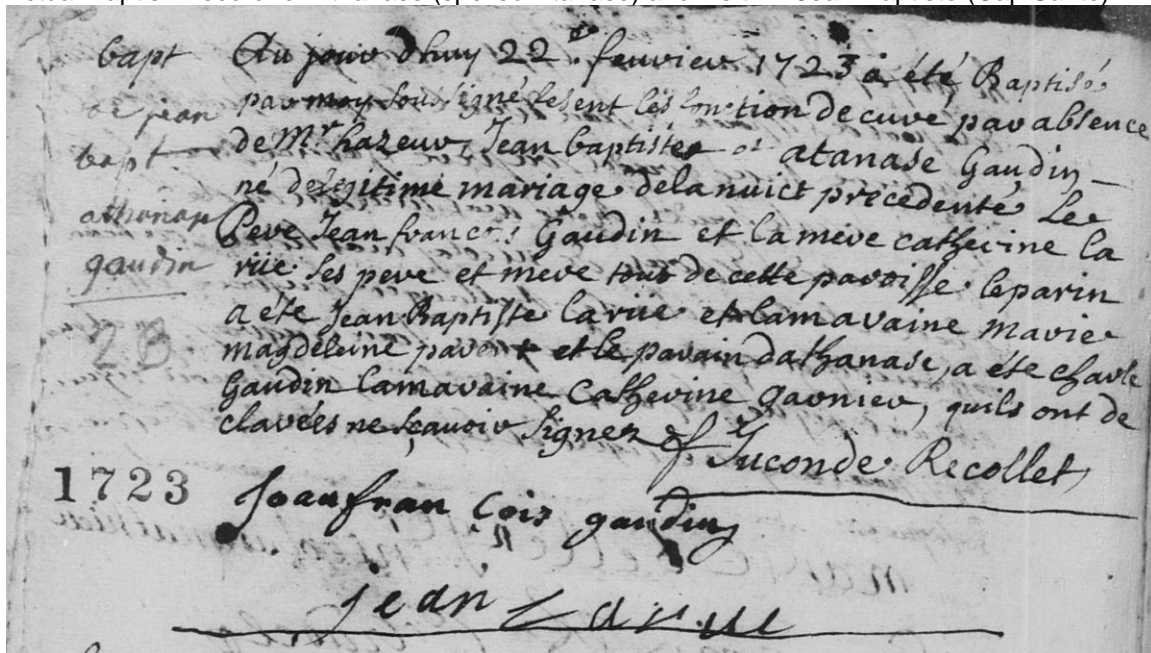
IV.—GAUDIN, ATHANASE, [JEAN-FRS III.  
b 1723.  
PICHÉ, Marie-Thérèse, [PIERRE III.  
b 1729.  
*Anonyme*, b et s 7 mars 1754, aux Ecureuils.

### 1724.

III.—PICHET, PIERRE, [ADRIEN II.  
b 1697.

LESAGE (I), Scholastique.  
*Marie*, b 12 et s 28 août 1725, au Cap-Santé.<sup>2</sup>  
—*Adrien*, b 2 10 nov. 1726; 1<sup>o</sup> m 2 15 janvier 1753, à Madeleine MATTE; 2<sup>o</sup> m 1756, à Marie-Louise RONDEAU; s 17 février 1757, à St-Ours.—*Pierre*, b... m 2 10 janvier 1752, à Marie-Angélique JUGNAC.—*Marie-Thérèse*, b 2 26 juin 1729; m 2 6 oct. 1749, à Athanase GAUDIN.—*Marie-Madeleine*, b 25 février, à la Pte-aux-Trembles, Q. et s 2 23 mai 1731.—*Jean-Marie*, b 2 9 et s 2 16 juin 1732.—*Joseph-Louis*, b 2 3 sept. 1733.—*Jean-Baptiste*, b 2 4 juin 1735.—*Marie-Angélique*, b 2 9 janvier 1737.—*Marie-Anne*, b 2 7 sept. 1738; m 7 nov. 1768, à Pierre LEMERLE, à Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade.<sup>3</sup>—*Marie-Madeleine*, b 2 11 avril 1740; m 3 10 oct. 1763, à Jean-Baptiste GAUDIN.—*Augustin*, b 2 1<sup>er</sup> août et s 2 3 sept. 1741.—*Marie-Scholastique*, b 2 14 avril 1743.—*Marie-Catherine*, b 2 25 juillet 1744.—*Louis-Joseph*, b 2 25 août et s 2 21 oct. 1746.—*François-de-Sales*, b 2 25 août et s 2 18 oct. 1746.

Actual Baptism record for Athanase (spelled Atanase) and his twin Jean-Baptiste (Cap Santé):



### French Lose America

The War of the Austrian Succession in Europe reached America in 1744. At first, the French, although vastly outnumbered, were able to contain the English to their settlements in America. The French raids and sieges, conducted with their Indian allies, were generally going in their favour. The English, taking advantage of their numbers and of their superiority over the ocean, launched an invasion of Acadia. They took Louisbourg but had to return it and other territorial gains to the French with the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748.



The American English were disgusted with this agreement between the European nations as they felt they should be able to lay claim to the large, sparsely populated interior claimed by France. To demonstrate their occupation of the land, the French started building fortifications along their territory including the Ohio Valley, an area specifically contested by the English. When the English also started building a fortification in the Ohio Valley in 1754 the French felt their territory was being threatened and attacked the fort. This was the start of the French and Indian War in North America, and it very quickly spread to all areas of the continent. This conflict became part of the greater 7 Years War which generally affected most nations in Europe.

With vastly superior numbers of ships and men, and with supplies readily available from New England, the English defeated the French forces in peninsular Nova Scotia in 1755. Since some Acadians had fought on the side of the French and could no longer be trusted, all 11,500 Acadians were expelled from the territory and sent either to Europe or to the British colonies. Some Acadians fled to other French territories such as New France and the Mississippi valley. In 1758 the English retook Fortress Louisbourg and Isle Royale. Acadia would now be known as Nova Scotia (later, this territory was split into two, with the other called New Brunswick). The English demolished Fortress Louisbourg, the one they had captured twice, to ensure it did not return to the French.



*Louisburg Cross*

The English, with an army and fleet at hand, set toward New France to conquer the remaining French territories in North America. In 1758 the French lost key battles in upstate New York. General Montcalme pleaded with the French court to send more French soldiers, stating that the English have approximately 60,000 well-supplied soldiers against 10 to 11 thousand French in the entire colony. France could not help. The colony of New France had to fight its own battles.

In 1759 the inevitable happened. General Wolfe entered the St Lawrence in force with 49 war ships and 140 smaller craft. His army of approximately 10,000 men made land at Ile d'Orleans and the south shore opposite Quebec City. They began a cannon and mortar bombardment that nearly leveled the city.

Meanwhile, the French manned fortifications and barricaded homes along the north shore. The English attempted to land near the Montmorency Falls but were beaten back with heavy losses. Frustrated, Wolfe sent scouts and rangers further up the river to disrupt the French supply lines and destroy any remaining fortifications, homes and other buildings.

Wolfe successfully landed his army a few miles upriver from Quebec. The next day Wolfe led 3300 British Regulars to the Plains of Abraham and established a line of skirmish. Montcalme decided to advance on the line with his 3500 soldiers who consisted of Indian allies, French Regulars, militia, Acadian militia and other men. The men approached to within 30 yards of each other and, in a massive volley, many French and English fell including Wolfe. Shaken, the French quickly retreated to defensive positions in the damaged city, with the English and their reinforcements in pursuit. Montcalme died of injuries the following morning. The French abandoned the city and marched westward to prepared fortifications at the Jacques-Cartier River and to Pte-aux-Trembles where our ancestor Athanase had his land. He was surely pressed to lend assistance to the soldiers and militia at this time, and there is documentation stating that the soldiers were quartered with the residents of the area.



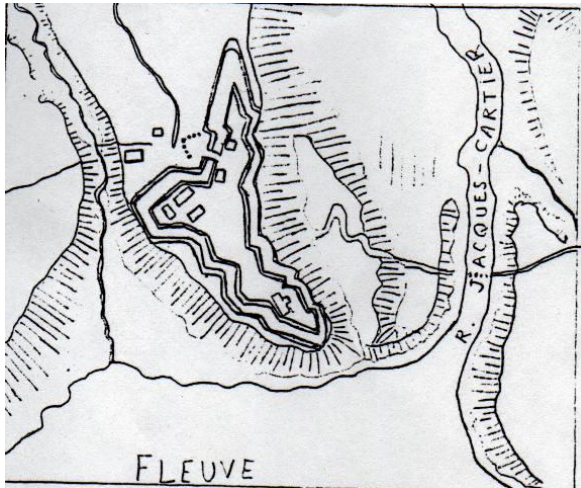
*Death of Montcalme*

In 1760 the French, with reinforcements, marched from the fort at the Jacques Cartier River for Quebec City. The British had been forewarned as one of the French sentries had fallen into the river and was captured by an English sentry near Quebec City. A battle west of the city was won by the French and the British retreated to the city. The French laid siege but the reinforcing fleet from England, having defeated the French fleet off the coast of France, arrived with a fresh army and the French withdrew. The English then sailed for Montreal where their 17,000 soldiers easily defeated the 2000 French defenders.

The last remaining outpost for the French along the St Lawrence was at the fort at the Jacques Cartier River. This fort was built exactly on the land of Athanase's inlaws, the Piche dit Lamusette family. The family house was at the center of the defensive works. The fort had been



built by the residents of the area and the government supplied money to pay for the 10,000 linear feet of board that it took. The fort was well located, with the river on two sides, an escarpment and a ditch, and a wall of stone. Due to its sheer proximity to their lands, there is little doubt that several Godins worked on the fortifications and provided what supplies they could to the fort.



*Sketch of Fort Jacques-Cartier in 1761.*

The French in the fort resisted for a time but were vastly outnumbered and New France capitulated. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 gave the British full possession of their newly conquered land.

The English just had little time to settle in their newly conquered land when, to the south, they faced protests in 1765 that eventually led to all-out rebellion in 1775. The American Revolutionary War had begun. France and Spain, wanting to create hardships for the English, provided much needed supplies, soldiers and ships to the English colonial rebels.

The effect of the war was surprisingly minimal to the colonial French in New France. Although they had lost a war and their government, life continued as it always

had. The habitants were used to being self-sufficient and were not ones to worry about politics. They only regretted that France did not help them in their hour of need. Ties between the French in the newly formed Province of Quebec and France ceased to exist.

### **The Piché (dit Lamusette) Family**

There are many interesting stories from the historical records. This particular story relates to the grandparents of Marie-Therese Piché, the wife of Athanase.

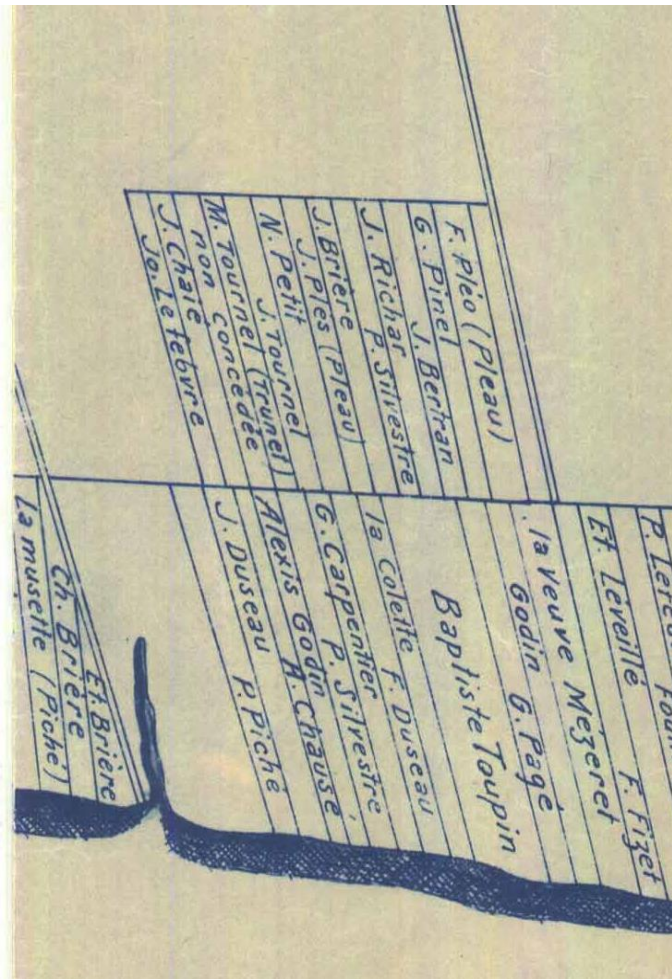
Pierre Piché arrived in New France in 1662 and rented land in the Sillery area near Quebec City, having left his wife in France to wait for him to get established. Some time later, his brother Louis, a member of a religious order, arrived from France and advised Pierre that his wife had died. After about a year Pierre met Catherine Durant, a "Fille du Roi", and they were married in 1665. The "Fille du Roi" were single girls that were the wards of the King in France, sent to New France to marry into the predominantly male population and start families. The King paid a dowry and paid for the wedding.

Pierre and Catherine had several children when they decided to settle on their own land in the Neuville area, having purchased in 1669 the rights to 2 arpents of land for 155 livres.

In 1671, a friend arriving from France advised him that his first wife, Marie Lefebvre, was in fact still alive in France and wondering why he hadn't returned to retrieve her. Mr. Piché was an accidental polygamist.

Devastated, he sought the advice of the bishop Msg de Laval to see what could be done. Through his contacts the Msg confirmed that Pierre's first wife was alive and he was ordered to go to France to get her. The marriage to Catherine was annulled and Pierre lost his family.

During the trip from France his first wife died of illness on the ship. Pierre now found himself unmarried so upon his return to Quebec he re-married Catherine and all ended well. All, that is, except for poor Marie Lefebvre.



*Image of the land allotments from 1709. Note the land on the extreme left was of the family of Athanase's wife. Fort Jacques Cartier was located on this land in the 1750's.*



This house is called the “Manoir Allsopp” but according to a Quebec Archeologist it was originally the location of the house of the Piché (dit Lamusette) family, the family of the wife of our ancestor Athanase. It is located in the center of the historic Fort Jacques-Cartier near Cap Santé, the last stand of the French in Canada in 1760. It is located near the bank of the Jacques-Cartier River along the Chemin du Roi (King’s Road). After the fort fell to the British, the English occupied the site until 1763. The land was acquired by the Englishman Allsopp, the largest producer of flour in Lower Canada. This house is still occupied today.

The site of the historical Jacques Cartier fort is undeveloped and marginally protected. Still visible in the forested area are the ditches but not much else.

## Names

There were only 97 instances of the name Athanase throughout New France to the year 1800. The name Athanase is an unusual name. Of Greek origin, it is often spelled Athanasius. It was an interesting choice of names as it is that of an early saint in the Orthodox Church, one who fought against Aryanism, often at odds with emperors and monarchs, and one that placed great emphasis on monastic life.

Since names are most of what we have to go on when searching records, let us look at the popularity of certain names in New France.

According to the PRDH, here is a list of the most common first names among the 400,000 individuals baptized before 1800:

Boys			Girls		
Rank	First Name	Numbers	Rank	First Name	Numbers
1	Jean Baptiste	22,011	1	Marie-Josèphe	18,807
2	Joseph	21,616	2	Marie-Louise	13,115
3	Pierre	16,664	3	Marie-Anne	11,060
4	François	13,088	4	Marie-Marguerite	9207
5	Louis	12,057	5	Marie-Madeleine	8812
6	Antoine	7800	6	Marie-Angelique	8750
7	Charles	7429	7	Marguerite	8663
8	Michel	5689	8	Marie	7133
9	Jacques	5627	9	Marie-Genevieve	5947
10	Augustin	3790	10	Marie-Françoise	5695
11	Joseph Marie	3612	11	Marie-Catherine	5594
12	Jean	3599	12	Marie-Charlotte	4797
13	Etienne	3098	13	Marie-Therese	4478
14	Alexis	2500	14	Genevieve	4074
15	André	2204	15	Catherine	3250
16	Nicolas	2158	16	Marie-Elisabeth	3131
17	Jean-François	2054	17	Elizabeth	2631
18	Paul	1854	18	Angelique	2399
19	François-Xavier	1782	19	Françoise	2098
20	Ignace	1701	20	Louise	2048
21	Jean Marie	1532	21	Marie-Amable	1982
22	Gabriel	1531	22	Madeleine	1765
23	Amable	1443	23	Therese	1745
24	Toussaint	1020	24	Charlotte	1686
25	Guillaume	995	25	Marie-Archange	1685

Our family followed the trend as many of the most popular names in New France were carried by a Godin.



Here are the most common family names in New France, up to 1800 (shows numbers of unique individuals):

Rank	Family name	N	Rank	Family name	N
1	Roy	3068	26	Ouellet	1141
2	Gauthier	2330	27	Pépin	1125
3	Gagnon	2329	28	Richard	1100
4	Lefebvre	2158	29	Hébert	1100
5	Morin	2096	30	Dubois	1067
6	Boucher	1911	31	Fortin	1046
7	Côté	1846	32	Lévesque	1044
8	Bélanger	1778	33	Cloutier	1042
9	Pelletier	1762	34	Gosselin	1033
10	Paquet	1684	35	Martel	1012
11	Gagné	1636	36	Vallée	1010
12	Martin	1527	37	Charbonneau	1007
13	Parent	1505	38	Archambault	996
14	Leclerc	1505	39	Allard	996
15	Langlois	1457	40	Bouchard	970
16	Renaud	1455	41	Tessier	966
17	Fournier	1408	42	Robert	960
18	Caron	1369	43	Beaudouin	958
19	Tremblay	1340	44	Petit	953
20	Perrault	1284	45	Proulx	943
21	Thibault	1227	46	Houde	931
22	Demers	1216	47	Dupuy	916
23	Girard	1175	48	Fortier	911
24	Giroux	1171	49	Leduc	908
25	Ménard	1144	50	Bédard	900

### The Godin Name in the Records

The name Gaudin/Godin accounted for 637 individuals from the beginning of the colony to 1800. Most are descendants of Charles, our ancestor, or Pierre, another Godin pioneer that settled in Montreal at about the same time.

If we look at the details, here is a list of Godin pioneers that have at least one married son:

Birth	Name	First Name	Origin
1630	CHATILLON GODIN	PIERRE	Dijon, France
1632	GODIN	CHARLES	Dieppe, France
1681	CHATILLON GODIN	PIERRE	Acadia
1689	GODIN LAPOTERIE	NICOLAS	Brest, France
1698	CHATILLON GODIN	PIERRE	Acadia
1702	GODIN TOURANGEAU DELAULIERE	JOSEPH	Tours, France
1703	GODIN BELLEFEUILLE	JACQUES	Acadia
1706	CHATILLON GODIN	JACQUES	Acadia
1728	GODIN	FELIX	Acadia

Note the Godins from Acadia with a “dit” name are related to the Pierre (Chatillon) Godin line who first settled in the Montreal area. These individuals had moved from the Montreal area to Acadia and then back to New France.

The spelling of the Gaudin name changed with Athanase. He was registered as a Gaudin at birth but was referenced as Godin later in life. Sometimes his name was spelled Atanase.